

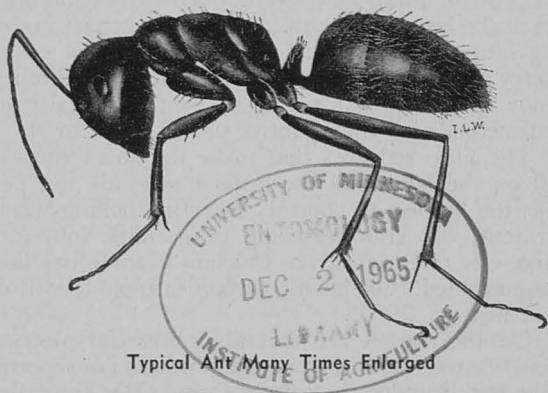
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Ants and Their Control

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ANTS AND THEIR CONTROL

Ants are frequently a nuisance, disturbing the peace of the household or making trouble about the homestead. They may make little mounds of soil in rings around their small openings in the lawn; the same forms may come up through the cracks in the cement sidewalk; others may make large mounds in the back yard or at the side of the house or under the porch; others may open up galleries around the roots of asters and some other choice flowering plants; others are found on peony buds and are said by some to eat them. Some assemble in hollow trees and often attack the healthy growth. Still others persist in getting into our houses and refuse to keep out of the pantry and the ice-box. All of these forms and others annoy us and so exasperate us by their persistence that methods for their control must be employed.

The little red ants that make the small rings of soil on the lawn and the cement sidewalk are perhaps the hardest to control. Injecting boiling water, kerosene, old crank-case oil, or gasoline into each burrow is often effective. Calcium cyanide has been recommended. On lawns, carbon bisulphide will do least injury.

On the market are several commercial preparations. Antno, Roto, Sentene, and others are reported to be excellent for these lawn forms. We know that powdered sodium fluoride scattered where the ant rings are thickest will eventually eliminate the pests. In the use of all or any of these materials against this form, it is a case of finding out whether you are more persistent than the ant. It is simply a case of continually keeping after the pests.

The ants that build good-sized mounds or nests are easily eliminated by carbon bisulphide. Make several deep holes in the mound, about six inches apart. Into each hole pour a quarter of a cup of carbon bisulphide. Cover the nest with a wet sack

or rug to keep in the fumes and keep covered for ten or twelve hours. *Do not forget that carbon bisulphide is inflammable.*

For ants that work in hollow trees, carbon bisulphide may be injected.

Certain ants may often be found making galleries around the roots of plants like asters, calendulas, or others. These ants are paying attention to, and waiting upon, the plant lice which are working on the roots of these plants. Nicotine sulphate diluted at the rate of 1 to 800, or 2 teaspoonfuls to a gallon of water, poured around the roots of the plant will kill the plant lice and hence remove the ants.

Any of the ants mentioned may find their way into houses. When they have found a good source of food supply it is impossible to keep them away unless drastic measures are taken. If one is patient enough he can trace the ants back to the nest and destroy it with the methods mentioned. An easy way by which to trace the ants is to give them a little granulated sugar and then watch them carry it away. If the nest, however, is beneath the floor or in the walls of the basement this method is impracticable. Other methods must be resorted to. One is to sprinkle sodium fluoride over their favorite runways. Another is to place in small boxes with tightly fitting covers a poison substance that these workers will carry back to the nests to feed the young and the queen. The boxes should be so arranged that, with the cover partly pressed on, the ants can find their way into them through small openings and have easy access to the poisoned material. This poison may be put on bits of sponge and left around but if placed inside the box the poison is not so likely to be disturbed by children and small domesticated animals.

There are several of these poison bait formulas. Some suit one species of ant better than another. The only way to succeed in the control of the species you have is to try the different baits until the proper one is found.

Poison Baits

Formula No. 1

Granulated sugar	1 1/4 pounds
Water	1 1/4 pints
Tartaric acid, crystallized	15 grains
Benzoate of soda	15 grains

Boil these materials together for thirty minutes, then dissolve:

Arsenite of soda	1/8 ounce or 60 grains
in	
Hot water	1 fluid ounce

When these two solutions have cooled, add the second to the first and stir well. Then add two-thirds of a pound of strained honey to the resulting syrup and mix thoroly.

Formula No. 2

Sugar	1/2 pound
Arsenate of soda	1/4 ounce or 1 level teaspoonful
Water	1 pint
Honey	1 teaspoonful

Dissolve the sugar in the water, add the arsenate of soda, and boil until all is dissolved. Then add the honey.

Ants in Lawns

Brown sugar and Paris green mixed at the rate of one ounce of Paris green to one pound of brown sugar, scattered very thinly over the infested area at the rate of one pound of the mixture to 1,000 square feet usually clears up an infestation. Two treatments at 10-day intervals are required.

Another treatment which has been fairly successful is the use of the formula often used for earthworms or night crawlers. Two to three ounces of corrosive sublimate (mercuric chloride) are dissolved in hot water and added to 50 gallons of water. This is sprinkled over 1,000 square feet of sod and then with twice the quantity of water is washed into the soil. Still another method of control is sodium fluoride as previously mentioned.

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